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Date 12/9/02 Label No. B/251495765US

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07278

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Docket No.: 9450/OK689-USO

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Koichiro NAKATANI

Serial No.: 09/830,048

Art Unit: 3671

Confirmation No.: 9436

Filed: April 19, 2001

Examiner: Gary S. HARTMANN

For: TELESCOPIC UNIT AND TRIPOD

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Hon. Commissioner of
Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97, 1.98, and it is requested that the information set forth in this statement and in the listed documents be considered during the pendency of the above-identified application, and any other application relying on the filing date of the above-identified application or cross-referencing it as a related application.

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1. This IDS should be considered, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97, as it is filed: (Check one of the boxes A-D)

☐ A. Within three months of the filing date of the above-identified national application or within three months of the entry into the national stage of the above-identified international application.

☐ B. before the mailing date of a first office action on the merits, or a first office action after filing a request for continued examination.

☒ C. after (A) and (B) above, but before the mailing date of a final rejection, a notice of allowance, or any other action that closes prosecution, and Applicants have made the necessary statement in box "i" below or paid the necessary fee in box "ii" below.

(check one of the boxes "i" and "ii" below:)

☐ i. Counsel states that, upon information and belief, each item of information listed herein was either (a) cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS; or (b) was not cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, was not known to any individual designated in 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS.

☒ ii. A check for the fee set forth in 1. 17(p), presently believed to be \$180, is enclosed.

☐ D. after (A), (B) and (C) above, but before payment of the issue fee: Counsel states that, upon information and belief, each item of information listed herein was either (i) cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the IDS; or (ii) was not cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, was not known to any individual designated in 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS.

Docket No. 9450/0K684-USO

- ☐ i. A check for the fee set forth in 1.17 (p), presently believed to be \$180, is enclosed.

2. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.98, this IDS includes a list (form PTO-1449) of all patents, publications, or other information submitted for consideration by the office, either incorporated into this IDS or as an attachment hereto. A copy of each document listed is attached, except as explained below.

- ☐ A. Document(s) _____ is (are) deemed substantially cumulative to document(s) _____, and, in accordance with 1.98(c), only a copy of each of the latter documents is enclosed.

- ☒ B. Document numbers 1-4 were previously cited by or submitted to the Office on April 19, 2001 by the International Office for International Application PCT/JP00/01511:

☒ 3. Document(s) 1-4 are not in the English language. In accordance with 1.98(c), Applicant states:

- ☐ An English translation of each document (or of the pertinent portions thereof), or a copy of each corresponding English-language patent or application is enclosed.
- ☒ A concise explanation of the relevance of document(s) 1-4 is found in the attached search report (see MPEP § 609 A(3) (International Search Report previously submitted on April 19, 2001, copy enclosed))
- ☐ A concise explanation of the relevance of document(s) _____ is set forth as follows: [Insert concise explanation of relevance]
- ☐ A concise explanation of the relevance of document(s) _____ can be found on page(s) _____ of the specification.
- ☐ A concise explanation of document(s) _____ can be found on the attached sheet.

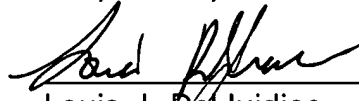
☐ 4. No explanation of relevance is necessary for documents in the English language (see MPEP § 609 A(3)).

[] 5. Other information being provided for the examiner's consideration follows: [An International Search Report, dated_____, which issued during the prosecution of Application No. which corresponds to the present application.]

6. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97(g) and (h), the filing of this IDS should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made or that information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in §1.56 (b), or that any cited document listed or attached is (or constitutes) prior art. Unless other-wise indicated, the date of publication indicated for an item is taken from the face of the item and Applicant reserves the right to prove that the date of publication is in fact different.

Early and favorable consideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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Agent for Applicant

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